



WEST VALLEY CITY

Unity Pride Progress

## NEWS ADVISORY

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Michael Christensen, UCCC Folklorist, 965-5108

### ***"The Way I'm Supposed To Be": Body Adornment, Modification & Cultural Expression***

#### **Panel Discussion at Utah Cultural Celebration Center**

**WHAT:** Engaging panel discussion on the cultural and historical significance of body adornment & modification at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center. The discussion is tied to the Cultural Center's current gallery exhibit, *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*.

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 7 @ 7:00 . 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Utah Cultural Celebration Center  
1355 West 3100 South

**WHO:** Everyone is welcome to attend the panel discussion, and view the *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats* photography exhibit free of charge during regular hours of operation.

**WHY:** The *Crowns* exhibit reveals the great historical and cultural traditions within the Black female church-going community. Women wearing hats as body adornment speaks volumes about both personal and group values & beliefs learned within this community. Although more permanent than wearing hats, the same can be said about those who chose to modify their bodies through tattooing, piercing and other permanent forms. Linking these two examples, Folklorist Michael Christensen will present and moderate a discussion on the cultural and historic significance of permanent body modification arts. Featured will be examples of Hawaiian and other Pacific Island tattooing traditions; contemporary tattooing and piercing, and the Middle Eastern art of Mehndi (henna). A Question and Answer session with invited artists will follow the panel discussion.

For more information about this and other events at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center, call 801-965-5100 or visit [culturalcelebration.org](http://culturalcelebration.org). This program has received funding from the Utah Humanities Council. The Utah Humanities Council promotes understanding of diverse traditions, values, and ideas through informed public discussion